

# ALSTF Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2004

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## Members Present

Lettie 'Pokey' Harris ('05)  
Jeffrey Reynolds ('06)  
J. Robin Root ('06)  
Patricia Pope ('07)  
Jenni-Meade Carter ('07)  
Max Bornstein ('05)  
Dane Davis ('07)  
Hollye Carpenter ('06)  
Kathy Eubank ('06)  
Dustin Campbell ('05)  
Allen 'Mac' Snead ('06)  
Paul Fleenor ('05)

## Others

NA

## Staff

Warren Short  
Chad Blosser  
Tom Nevetral  
Steve Puckett  
Gary Brown  
Scott Winston

## Members Absent

Jay Brown ('05)  
Steve Wade ('07)  
Lawrence Turner ('07)

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- Item 1: Committee members were welcomed to the inaugural meeting of the ALSTF Advisory Committee by Chad Blosser.
- Item 2: Committee members and OEMS staff were asked to introduce themselves to the other members.
- Item 3: Being the first meeting of the Committee, Chad Blosser reviewed the structure of the committee, its membership roster, and each member's length of service.

Following this review, Chad explained that there was a need to elect a committee chairperson. The Chairperson would be responsible for conducting meetings and would serve as a point of contact for the committee members, the EMS community at large and the Governor's EMS Advisory Board, if needed.

The floor was opened up for nominations. Chad asked Jeff Reynolds to begin the process of nominating and selecting a Committee Chairperson.

The Committee nominated and selected Dane Davis, the PEMS Representative to serve as Chairperson.

- Item 4: The Chair called on Chad Blosser to discuss the committee's charge. Mr. Blosser deferred to Warren Short for this agenda item. Mr. Short discussed the committee's charge (attached) and provided the committee with a brief background of the ALSTF program and how the program was initially developed.

Warren also reiterated the Committee's meeting dates and times.

Dane Davis suggested that two committee meetings, one in March and the other in November might be in order to gauge the use of ALS Training Funds and to ensure that the funds are utilized to the best strategic needs of the EMS community.

Membership did not express any concerns.

Warren also described the process for funding through the state and the current budget situation.

Warren called upon Gary Brown who updated the Committee on the state budget process and the present status of the budget. Gary believes that the OEMS budget will at least remain the same.

- Item 5: The Chair called upon Chad Blosser to present ALSTF program data to the Committee. Chad's presentation (attached) included both a background on the ALS Training Funds program as well as current statistics for the program.

- Item 6: Following the ALSTF program data presentation, the chair called upon Chad Blosser for a discussion and review of the proposed guidelines and policies for inclusion in the EMS Training Programs Administration Manual.

Dane Davis questioned why CE and Accreditation Funding have not seen more usage. Chad suggested that this question would be better suited for a discussion at a later point in the meeting. Dane deferred his question to later portion of the presentation.

A question was asked about why the course funding contracts were limited to CT programs and higher. Warren said that this was an oversight and that for the new fiscal year funding contracts would be corrected to read that all ALS levels were eligible for funding.

Chad asked if anyone had any corrections, additions or deletions for the proposed policies. None were heard.

Item 7: The Chair called upon Chad Blosser for a discussion of ALSTF issues and recommendations for change in the program.

Chad mentioned how smoothly the new ALSTF program has been running with only two exceptions: Standard CE Funding and EMT-I Site Accreditation Funding. These two funding streams were incorporated as a part of each Regional Council's contract with OEMS. The process for obtaining funds for these two streams differs greatly from the way the rest of the ALSTF program was setup. This has led to confusion for the Office, the Regional Councils and most especially those ALS Coordinators seeking funding for their programs.

Chad proposed the following changes to make the program run more smoothly.

- Continue allocating funds for Standard CE programs based upon the present Planning District model to ensure equity.
- Remove Standard CE funding from Regional Council contracts and replace it with a standard contract for CE funding based upon the model used throughout most of the ALSTF program.
- Allow ALS Coordinators and Councils to come in for Standard CE funding on a 'first come, first serve' basis until funds for that PD are exhausted.

Jeff Reynolds mentioned that he has problems with setting up funding for Standard CE based upon PD's. Jeff suggested that there should just be one big pot from which to draw down funding for CE. Robin Root agreed. Jeff again reiterated, why limit funding by PD? In his mind, the amount of money (funding) does not seem to be a problem.

Chad Blosser stated that Steve Wade was unable to attend due to an illness in his immediate family and Chad read Steve's concern from an e-mail message (attached). Mr. Wade's concern was that there was not enough funding for Standard CE in his region (BREMS) and they are requesting an increase in funding for CE programs.

Dustin Campbell spoke and said he agreed with the OEMS position on Standard CE funding. He would like to see the process changed and the positive effects would be opening up funding to a wider group of providers.

Patricia Pope brought up that she has problems getting CE money for training which needs to be done at night for volunteers. Most CE money is

being spent at one large regional provider during the day shutting out volunteers.

P.J. Fleenor indicated that he could see both sides of the issue but said he feels the committee needs to establish guidelines to ensure that all aspects of the program are properly managed.

Warren Short addressed Jeff's question about the need for PD based funding and stressed that this funding method was developed to ensure funding for Standard CE was equitable across the state.

P.J. Fleenor reiterated that everything should be consistent and handled the same way throughout the program.

A lengthy discussion ensued which centered around the feeling that present system does not appear to be working lets try something new.

J. Robin Root mentioned that he was concerned with this model because one system/agency in his area has a very controlled, closed system and he is concerned that they will take all the money. The Committee agreed that the course must be open and available to the general public in order to be eligible for funding.

Warren mentioned that the ALSTF programs has limited funds and he urged the need for communities to get together, talk and work together in order to make the most of these scarce resources.

**Motion:** Jeff Reynolds made the following motion. That ALS Cat 1 training dollars be allotted among PD's in the manor currently established and that individual entities as specified in the guidelines will be able to contract for those monies with the stipulation that the \$35 / hour not be prorated based upon class attendance and that the classes must be have open enrollment. Patricia Pope seconded the motion.

Dane Davis called for a vote. Before a vote could take place, the following discussions ensued.

Gary Brown interjected that he was uneasy about making major policy decision without including others in the EMS community in the process. He stressed the need for coordination and unification in the EMS system, not fragmentation as well as the need to ensure regional coordination and planning.

Warren Short indicated that the current process is fragmenting the EMS system, instead we were suggesting ways to make it easier to for programs to obtain money. This is not a wholesale change of the present

system, we are simply trying to make the system run smoother and more effectively.

Dane Davis reiterated that he supports the motion and the need for consistency in the programs. He also feels like we need to standardize the ALSTF program across the board.

Gary Brown stated that this group is advisory and this recommendation will be taken by staff, reviewed and once it is reviewed it would need to be discussed with all the parties involved in the process before it is implemented.

Dustin Campbell mentioned how he feels like this suggestion will open up more opportunities for providers for Standard Cat 1 CE.

Jenni-Meade Carter stated that Council contracts require ensuring CE programs in their PD's. What would this change do to this requirement? How will Council's ensure this training?

A brief discussions ensued.

Pokey Harris stated that there are numerous concerns, and suggested that we table the issue.

The Chair suggested that committee members take the issue back and discuss it and that the Committee get back together in six months to take up the issue. At this point we will have one full year's worth of data to review.

More discussion of the Jeff's motion followed. Jeff reiterated his motion and refused to withdraw it from the floor.

The Chair called for a vote on Jeff's original motion.

Those for:

- Dane Davis
- Jeff Reynolds
- Dustin Campbell
- Allen Snead
- Paul Fleenor
- Patricia Pope

Those opposed:

- Kathy Eubank

- Robin Root
- Hollye Carpenter
- Jenni-Mead Carter
- Max Bornstein
- Pokey Harris

The vote tied 6 for, 6 against. **Motion failed.**

Kathy Eubank asked if the Committee can assign someone to talk to the Councils and discern their feelings.

Item 8: The following new business was discussed:

Chad Blosser brought up an issue which has recently come to light in the ALSTF program. Presently there is no way for a non-profit organization to receive reimbursement for classes which they contract out to a for-profit entity. The committee asked the staff to develop a solution and present it at the next meeting. The committee suggests that staff look into for-profits completing contract and assigning payment to non-profit.

Dane Davis mentioned that there appeared to be a funding disparity between the community college's and individuals. It appears counterproductive for the community colleges to come in for course funding when their students are still charged the same amount in tuition for the program. A discussion of this matter ensued between Jeff, Patricia, Dane, Max. The committee will look into this apparent disparity.

Mac Snead asked if it would be possible for OEMS to notify contracted parties when contract payment has been made. OEMS staff will look into this suggestion; the amount of staff time being used for notifications needs to be considered. Staff will report back to the committee.

Dustin Campbell mentioned that when checks arrive via EFT, they typically land in a general fund account for the county or city and it is very difficult for the county/city departments to track these funds and have them reallocated to the department's budget/account. In some cases, the funds are not or will not be transferred so the funds never make it back for the purposes of training. What can the state do to ensure that these funds are returned to the department which requested them? Can the checks be earmarked for a specific department?

Staff has discussed this and conducted some research into this problem. There is not a great deal that can be done from the state perspective. Once payment is properly made, it is up to the contracted party and the city/county administrator to work out the details of reallocation of the ALSTF funds.

Chad Blosser showed the Committee members the new ALSTF web page and encouraged the members to use the web page for the most up-to-date forms and contracts.

Tom Nevetral asked the group if anyone had any questions for him. None being heard, he asked providers and coordinators to make sure that they call him with any questions that they may have in the future. He insisted that providers/coordinators call him; he loves to hear from you and wants to bond!!

Item 9: The Chair asked if there was any public comment. Hearing none, the Chair proceeded to adjourn the meeting.

Item 10: Meeting was adjourned and the next meeting will be set for sometime during the EMS Symposium in November of this year.